A social and ethical enquiry in the philosophy of Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyay: A comparative Study

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Title- A social and ethical enquiry in the philosophy of Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyay: A comparative study

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1. Introduction-

Social philosophy deals with the relationship between individuals and society, focusing on ethical, political and cultural issues. It delves into questions about the nature of society, human behavior in situations, ethics, values, justice and the interplay between these elements in a societal framework. It plays a crucial role in shaping our understanding of society by addressing fundamental questions about human existence in relation to boarder social structures. It scrutinizes our social world and looks at the identities, relations and power structures within it. Some social philosophy is concerned with what makes up our social world and how we can generate our society an ideal one free from any kind of prejudice, racism, gender bias, classism, irrationality etc.

Generally, it is known social ideologies cannot exist and survive without being followed and patronized by individuals. Sant Thiruvalluvar, Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay are given message for the social well-being of people. We can find those thought in there several books. But their thoughts exhume at different times in India.

The journey of Sant Thiruvalluvar, Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay were really different. Whereas Thiruvalluvar, also called as Valluvar, was a Tamil poet-saint. The period when he lived is debated, as is his religion identity. He had contributed

the "Tirukkural" or "Kural" to the sangam literature. Dayananda Saraswati was born in Hindu Brahmin family in Tankara, Gujrat. He gave a new path to the Hindu thought and founded 'Arya Samaj' to fight against the superstitions and blind faiths. On the other hand, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was born in a Brahmin family in Nagla Chandraban at Mathura. He devoled his whole life to integration of India, which is his famous work called 'Integral Humanism'.

Firstly, as a researcher I will be discussed about Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyay then will try to do a comperative study of the social and ethical aspect of their thought.

2. State of art-

The 19th century has the honor of being the revival periods of India. Many saint, social reformers and thinkers were born in India in his century and gave a new direction to the Indian society. Like **Thiruvalluvar**, also called **Valluvar** was an Indian Poet and Philosopher. He is best known as the author of the "***Tirukkural***", a couplets on ethics, political and economic and love. This text is considred an exceptional and widely reared work of Tamil Literature. It is a 2000years old text that feels as good as new. The language is fresh, readable and super concise and packs an extraordinary level of education for politicians, lovers, devotees, leaders and businessmen. We will be surprised how much insights we can draw today from this ancient work.

Dayananda Saraswati was born at Morvi in Kathiawar, Gujrat in Samavedi Brahmin Caste. In 1860 under Swami Virajananda Saraswati at Mathura, he began to study Panini and Patanjali and started preaching. On April 10, 1875 the 'Arya Samaj' was established in Bombay and

in1877 its constitution was finalized at Lahore. He was the first Indian who propounded the principal of equal opportunity and equality of human beings in the modern. He got more fame as a social reformer than in any other field. He said that as long as evils and superstitions prevail in the Indian society, political awaking and national integration is not possible in India. His vision of India included a classless and casteless society, a united India (religiously, socially and nationally), and an India free from foreign rule with Aryan religion being the common religion of all. He took inspiration from the Vedas and considered them to be 'India's Rock of Ages', the infallible and the true original seed of Hinduism. He gave the slogan ''Back to Vedas". He subscribed to the vedic notion of chaturvarna system in which a person was not born in any caste but was identified as a brahmin, kshatriya, vaishya and shudra according to the occupation the person followed.

Deendayal Upadhyay was one of the leading Indian Philosopher, Economist, Sociologist, Historian, Journalist and Political Scientist, who gave the concept of Integral Humanism. The main motive behind this doctrine is to reject the theory of individualism and to promote the importance of family and society to build an undivided society. He further rejected social. He also rejected communism in which individualism was crushed as part of a large heartless machine. He explains that society rather than arising from a social contract between individuals was fully born at its inception itself as a natural review organism with a definitive. National soul or ethos and its needs of the social organism parallel those of the individual system in which individualism reigned supreme. He considers this cosmos as a single unified system because he believes that entire universe is pivoted in god head. He appears to have been influence by the non-dual Philosophy of

Indian vedantic tradition. It closely resembles the conception of 'that one' (tatekam), which trace the growth the monism in Veda and upholds the single primordial cause, unfolds itself as the universe in all its diversities. He does not conceive a world negative attitude which is evident from his notion of karmamukti. He motivates man work for upliftment of the people in society. In this context he resembles modern indian thinker such as Swami Vivekananda, Arabindo, Rabindranath, Radhakrishnan etc.

3. **Problems to be investigated-**

This research work is to be conducted on Social Philosophy and Ethics. The problem to be investigated throughout this research work will be mainly as follows:

- How do Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyaya's views on social justice and equality intersect or diverge?
- What are the similarities and differences between their conceptions of human nature and moral agency?
- How do their philosophies address the challenges of modernity and globalization?
- What are the implications of their ideas for contemporary debates on multiculturalism and diversity?
- How can their philosophies inform contemporary discussions on ethics, morality and social responsibility?

4. **Objectives of the research and motivation**-

In this research as a researcher my objectives to determine the social and ethical aspect of Philosophy and how they are complement to each other. The main objectives behind this study are-

- To critically examine the social and ethical dimensions of Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- To compare and contrast their philosophies on social justice, equality and human rights.
- To analyze the relevance and applicability of their ideas in addressing contemporary social and ethical challenges.

5. **Research questions-**

This study specifically focuses on the comparative analysis of social and ethical aspects of Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati, Deendayal Upadhyay. So, the study will be done based on the following research questions-

I. What are the key social and ethical concepts in Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyaya's philosophies?

II. How do their philosophies address social justice, equality and human rights?

III. What are the ethical implications of their ideas on individual and collective responsibility, morality and virtuous living?

IV. How do their philosophies interest with contemporary social and ethical issues, such as gender, caste, economic inequality and environmental degradation?

V. What are the potential applications of their ideas in contemporary society?

6. **Research design and methodology-**

This research will be done through interpretation of various books, articles, thesis papers either on or by Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyay. Specifically, the type of research will be comparative as well as descriptive.

7. **Sources of data collection-**

This research will be a qualitative one, as a researcher I will try to get data from the primary sources of books (such as- Tirukkural (Thiruvalluvar), Satyartha Prakash (Dayananda Saraswati), and Integral Humanism (Deendayal Upadhyaya)), secondary sources (such as- research articles and submitted thesis papers).

8. **Analysis of data-**

As this research will be a comparative study, a researcher will do self-analysis of the findings in two steps. These ares-

- Content analysis: Examining the frequency and context of key concepts and ideas.
- Comparative analysis: Comparing and contrasting the philosophies of Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyaya.

9. Its relevance to the present-day problem and need to the society-

Social philosophy is one of the important branches of philosophy. It is the thoughtful consideration for human society. It gives insight into the actual activities of human beings in the society. A social philosopher tries to study society from philosophical point of view and tries to find out the link between human society and the basic nature of ultimate reality. It includes everything which has human and social significances.

10. **Contribution to the existing knowledge-**

Generally, we discuss about Thiruvalluvar, D. Saraswati and D. Upadhyay's philosophical thoughts from the context of social and ethical philosophy. So many books are written by them on their own thoughts and also so many articles are written on their thoughts. But from the social and ethical perspective, the concerned philosophers did not discuss or write it distinctly or specific. So, this research related to social and ethical philosophy may add more specific and holistic knowledge to this area collaborating the renowned philosophers' remarkable philosophical thoughts.

11. **Future work-**

Social philosophy is important because it helps us to understand the fundamental issues or problem of society as well as individuals, such as justice, rights, liberty, equality and freedom. It also allows us to rationally solve problems that arise in the process of social development and to foresee the future of society. So, every sphere of our life we need to judge the context to find new thoughts on this perspective. By pursuing these research directions interested and enthusiastic scholar or researcher or social strategist can further explore the social and ethical dimensions of Thiruvalluvar, Dayananda Saraswati and Deendayal Upadhyaya's philosophies, contributing to a deeper understanding of Indian thoughts and its relevance in addressing contemporary global challenges.

12.**Tentative chapters-**

In discussing my research topic, I suggested the following chapters tentatively-

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Chapter I- Social Philosophy and Ethics: An overview
- ✓ Chapter II- Thiruvalluvar: Social and ethical perspectives
- ✓ Chapter III- Dyananda Saraswati: Social and ethical dimensions
- ✓ Chapter IV- Deendayal Upadhyay: Social and ethical implications
- ✓ Chapter V- Comparative analysis on the concepts of Thiruvalluvar, D. Saraswati and D. D. Upadhyay
- ✓ Conclusion
- ✓ Bibliography

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